

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

In December of 2016 the Internal Affairs Unit of the police department was commanded Captain William J. Pinho. Assigned to the unit with Captain Pinho were Sergeants Lawrence Smith and Donato DeMarco.

The Internal Affairs Unit is charged by the Police Chief with the institutional accountability, implementation and maintenance of the rules and regulations of the department. Internal Affairs operates as the investigative arm of the Chief of Police. As part of its duties, the unit will identify and report employee behavior that is a discredit to the department. The goal of Internal Affairs is to protect the integrity of the department by ensuring compliance with the highest ethical standards, performance criteria and commitment to public service. Internal Affairs thoroughly and impartially investigates all allegations of improper conduct by any officers. Internal Affairs also compiles information that assists in identifying trends, patterns and other improprieties by the department's employees. All completed Internal Affairs investigations are reviewed by the Chief, or his designee. At that time, any discipline arising from a sustained complaint is strictly the responsibility of the Chief and/or the Police Director. Internal Affairs is never a part of the disciplinary process.

The police department accepts all complaints against any member of the department with only one exception; motor vehicle summonses. A complaint of that nature will not be accepted that is solely based upon the circumstances surrounding the validity of the summons itself. A complaint of that nature is left up to the municipal court to decide. Complaints are accepted twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, by either an Internal Affairs officer, a police supervisor or if necessary any available police officer. Complaints are accepted in person, on the telephone, by mail and now also via the Internet directly to Internal Affairs. Juveniles may file a complaint, as well someone that wants to remain anonymous and interested third parties.

When the department receives a complaint, a "Complaint against Personnel" (CAP) form is filed and forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit. Internal Affairs will assign the CAP a central complaint number. Once

assigned a number, minor complaints involving demeanor or minor rule infractions may be forwarded to the captain in charge of the officer. However, even minor complaints, if repeated by the same officer, are subject to investigation by Internal Affairs at any time. All complaints of a serious nature, or complaints that involve multiple officers within different divisions, are handled by Internal Affairs. At the conclusion of all investigations, the Chief or his designee will review the report and make any necessary recommendations. After that, the complainant and the officer(s) involved are informed as to the outcome. However, if a complaint is sustained, the complainant is never told what discipline is imposed, only that the officer received discipline.

In 2016, Internal Affairs received 53 Complaints Against Personnel. The table below illustrates all categories that CAPS are divided into, along with the number of complaints received for the year in each individual category:

CAPS RECEIVED ~~2012~~ 2016

1	Excessive Force	5
2	Improper Arrest	2
3	Improper Entry	2
4	Improper Search	1
5	Differential Treatment	6
6	Demeanor	21
7	Other-Rule Violation	16
8	Other-Criminal Viol.	0
Total		53

When an investigation is concluded it receives one of five dispositions; sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded or administratively closed. The length of time that it may take to close an investigation varies. Most investigations conducted by Internal Affairs are completed within thirty days to allow for the Forty-Five Day rule. Generally, more serious allegations, i.e., a criminal allegation, an officer involved shooting or use of excessive force, etc., may take longer. However, it is not unusual for complaints arising from a Tort Claim to take weeks or in

some cases months to complete. The table below indicates the dispositions for all Complaints Against Personnel that were closed in 2016:

Complaints Against Personnel DISPOSITIONS 2016

		Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Adm. Closed
1	Excessive Force	0	16	0	0	0
2	Improper Arrest	0	1	0	0	0
3	Improper Entry	0	1	0	0	0
4	Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0
5	Diff. Treatment	0	2	0	0	0
6	Demeanor	2	3	2	0	0
7	Other-Rule Viol.	12	1	1	2	0
8	Other-Crime	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	14	24	3	2	0

During the year of 2016 the Internal Affairs Division was commanded by Captain Daniel Saulnier until his retirement effective December 1st, 2016.

Under his command were the following:

Sergeant Stephen Negrey until his transfer March 21st, 2016.

Sergeant Robert Hilongos until his retirement effective August 1st, 2016

Sergeant John Maloney until his retirement effective July 1st, 2016

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In 2017, Internal Affairs received 82 Complaints Against Personnel. The table below illustrates all categories that CAPS are divided into, along with the number of complaints received for the year in each individual category:

CAPS RECEIVED 2017

1	Excessive Force	10
2	Improper Arrest	6
3	Improper Entry	2
4	Improper Search	0
5	Differential Treatment	12
6	Demeanor	21
7	Other-Rule Violation	26
8	Other-Criminal Viol.	5
Total		82

When an investigation is concluded it receives one of five dispositions; sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded or administratively closed. The length of time that it may take to close an investigation varies. Most investigations conducted by Internal Affairs are completed within thirty days to allow for the

Forty-Five Day rule. Generally, more serious allegations, i.e., a criminal allegation, an officer involved shooting or use of excessive force, etc., may take longer. However, it is not unusual for complaints arising from a Tort Claim to take weeks or in some cases months to complete. The table below indicates the dispositions for all Complaints Against Personnel that were closed in 2017:

Complaints Against Personnel DISPOSITIONS 2017

		Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Adm. Closed
1	Excessive Force	0	5	0	0	0
2	Improper Arrest	0	4	1	1	0
3	Improper Entry	0	2	0	0	0
4	Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0
5	Diff. Treatment	0	5	4	0	0
6	Demeanor	3	6	7	2	0
7	Other-Rule Viol.	15	6	2	1	1
8	Other-Crime	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	18	28	14	4	1

Internal Affairs will assign the CAP a central complaint number. Once assigned a number, minor complaints involving demeanor or minor rule infractions may be forwarded to the captain in charge of the officer. However, even minor complaints, if repeated by the same officer, are subject to investigation by Internal Affairs at any time. All complaints of a serious nature, or complaints that involve multiple officers within different divisions, are handled by Internal Affairs. At the conclusion of all investigations, the Chief or his designee will review the report and make any necessary recommendations. After that, the complainant and the officer(s) involved are informed as to the outcome. However, if a complaint is sustained, the complainant is never told what discipline is imposed, only that the officer received discipline.

In 2018, Internal Affairs received 111 Complaints against Personnel. The table below illustrates all categories that CAPS are divided into, along with the number of complaints received for the year in each individual category:

CAPS RECEIVED 2018

1	Excessive Force	6
2	Improper Arrest	3
3	Improper Entry	0
4	Improper Search	0
5	Differential Treatment	11
6	Demeanor	43
7	Other-Rule Violation	42
8	Other-Criminal Viol.	5
Total		111

When an investigation is concluded it receives one of five dispositions; sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded or administratively closed. The length of time that it may take to close an investigation varies. Most investigations conducted by Internal Affairs are completed within thirty days to allow for the Forty-Five Day rule. Generally, more serious allegations, i.e., a criminal allegation, an officer involved shooting or use of excessive force, etc., may take longer. However, it is not unusual for complaints arising from a Tort Claim to take weeks or in

some cases months to complete. The table below indicates the dispositions for all Complaints against Personnel that were closed in 2018:

Complaints Against Personnel DISPOSITIONS 2018

		Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Adm. Closed
1	Excessive Force	0	1	2	0	1
2	Improper Arrest	0	3	0	0	0
3	Improper Entry	0	0	0	0	0
4	Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0
5	Diff. Treatment	0	8	0	0	0
6	Demeanor	2	17	5	1	2
7	Other-Rule Viol.	20	3	5	1	5
8	Other-Crime	0	1	4		
	TOTAL	22	33	16	2	9